

Service Date: January 31, 1989

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER of the Application of)	
BLACK HILLS CORPORATION d/b/a	) UTILITY DIVISION
BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT CO.,	) DOCKET NO. 88.12.64
for Authority to Increase Their	) DEFAULT ORDER NO. 5397
Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider.	)
_____	)

On December 27, 1988, Black Hills Corporation, d/b/a Black Hills Power and Light Company (BHP&L or Applicant), filed a petition with the Montana Public Service Commission pursuant to Sections 69-3-101 et seq., MCA, for an order authorizing the Applicant to increase its electric rates in order to reflect the increased cost of fuel used in the generation of electricity. The fuel costs concerned are for the months of September, October, and November, 1988.

On December 30, 1988, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing. A provision in that notice stated, "If, however, no hearing is requested by January 30, 1989, the Commission will consider the matter and a default order may be issued."

Having considered the application and the documentation furnished by the Applicant in support of its application and deeming itself fully advised in the premises, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. If increased fuel costs for the months of September, October, and November, 1988, are to be recovered, a charge of \$.01120 must be added to the base fuel cost of \$.01240 approved in Docket No. 83.4.25, which results in a total fuel charge of \$.02360 per KWH.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and proceeding in this matter.
2. The resulting rate levels are reasonable and just.

#### ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider for the billing period of February, March, and April, 1989, is \$.01120 per KWH. This charge shall be added to the base fuel cost approved in Docket No. 83.4.25.

2. The approved rates shall be effective for electric service rendered on and after February 1, 1989.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana on the 30th day of January, by a 5 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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CLYDE JARVIS, Chairman

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JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

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HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

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WALLACE W. "WALLY" MERCER, Commissioner

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DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ann Purcell  
Acting Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the Commission reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.